(b) Yes, Sir. During the current financial year, grant-in-aid of Rs. 9204.66 lakh for implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and Rs. 5075.66 lakh towards Central Government's share for supplementary nutrition component of the Scheme has been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh, till date.

(c) ICDS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Government/UT Administrations. Under the Scheme, the funds are released to the State Governments/UT Administrations and not Anganwadi Centres or Districts directly. States/UTs utilize the funds for implementation of the ICDS Scheme as per the norms approved by the Government of India. Utilization of funds is monitored through Statements of Expenditure (SOE) showing the item-wise expenditure and Utilization Certificate. Expenditure incurred in each District, Project or Anganwadi Centre is not captured in the Statement of Expenditure (SOE) or Utilization Certificate.

Status of anganwadi employees

702. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the status of anganwadi employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Government have taken/are going to take for the welfare of anganwadi employees;

(d) whether Government are ready to fulfil the demand of anganwadi employees of the status of Government employees *viz.* increase in salary and pension etc; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ICDS Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) as honorary workers selected from local community who come forward to render their services, on part-time basis, in Anganwadi Centres. They are grassroots

functionaries to implement the ICDS scheme. Being honorary workers, they are paid a monthly honoraria as decided by the Government from time to time.

(c) In recognition of the services being discharged by them, the Government has extended the followign benefits:—

- Honorarium doubled in the year 2002, to Rs. 1000/- per month for AWWs & Rs. 500/- for AWHs.
- Allowed paid absence on maternity at par with women employees of organized sector.
- The GOI has introduced Anganwadi Bima Yojana w.e.f. 1.4.2004 under Life Insurance Corporation's Social Security Scheme.
- In order to motivate AWWs and give recognition to good volunatary work, a scheme of award for AWWs has been introduced both at the National and State level. The award comprises Rs. 25000/- cash and citation at centre level and Rs. 5000/- cash and citation at State level.

Apart from the above, many state Governments are giving monetary benefits to AWWs/AWHs out of their own resources for extra work being done by them under other than ICDS Scheme.

State Governments have also been requested to:—

- Consider services rendered by AWWs are being treated as additional qualifications for recruitment as Primary School Teachers, ANMs & other such village based posts.
- Recruit at least 25% of supervisors under ICDS Scheme from matriculate AWWs with 10 years' experience.
- Set up AWWs & Helpers Welfare Fund at the State/UT level out of the contributions from AWWs/AWHs & State/UT Governments.
- Set up Grievance Redressal mechinery at the State/UT level & Distt. Level for prompt redressal of grievances.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. In view of their honorary status under the Scheme, it would not be feasible to treat them as Government employees.